

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for validating a user identity via a communications link comprising the steps of:
  - obtaining a registered user telephone number coincident with set up of the communications link;
  - 5 obtaining a pre-assigned security code associated with the registered user telephone number from a user connected to the communications link;
  - processing the registered user telephone number and the security code to determine a validation status of the user.
2. The method of claim 1 comprising the steps, preceding the step of obtaining a registered telephone number, of:
  - receiving a user telephone number for registration;
  - generating the security code associated with the user telephone number
  - 5 received for registration; and
  - linking the user telephone number received for registration and the associated security code in a data base.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the registered user telephone number is obtained from signaling information provided in conjunction with the communications link.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the registered user telephone number is obtained from information input to the communications link by the user.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the communications link is established by a call initiated by the user.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the communications link is established by a call initiated by a terminal other than a terminal associated with the user.

7. A telecommunications device for validating a user identity via a communications link comprising:

a means for obtaining a registered user telephone number coincident with set up of the communications link;

5 a means for obtaining a pre-assigned security code associated with the registered user telephone number from a user connected to the communications link;

a processor for processing the registered user telephone number and the security code to determine a validation status of the user.

8. The device of claim 7 further comprising:

registration means for receiving a user telephone number for registration;

a processor for generating the security code associated with the user telephone number received for registration; and

5 a data base in which a linkage between the user telephone number received for registration and the associated security code is stored.

9. The device of claim 7 wherein the registered user telephone number is obtained from signaling information provided in conjunction with the communications link.

10. The device of claim 7 wherein the registered user telephone number is obtained from information input to the communications link by the user.

11. The device of claim 7 wherein the communications link is established by a call initiated by the user.

12. The device of claim 7 wherein the communications link is established by a call initiated by a terminal other than a terminal associated with the user.

13. A telecommunications device, for validating a user identity comprising:

a database;

a validation processor;

means for coupling the database and the validation processor;

5 means, coupled to the validation processor, for obtaining a registered user telephone number;

means, coupled to the validation processor, for obtaining, from a user, a security code associated with the registered user telephone number;

wherein the validation processor operates on the obtained registered telephone  
10 number and the security code to determine a validation status of the user identity.

14. A stored program provided on a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for validating a user identity, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a registered user telephone number;

5 obtaining, from a user, a security code associated with the registered user telephone number;

processing the registered user telephone number and the security code to identify a validation status of the user identity.